

SEPA IWG

Key Questions/Discussion for Bucket #1

**Types of Proposals to be Evaluated
&
Types of Emissions to be Measured**

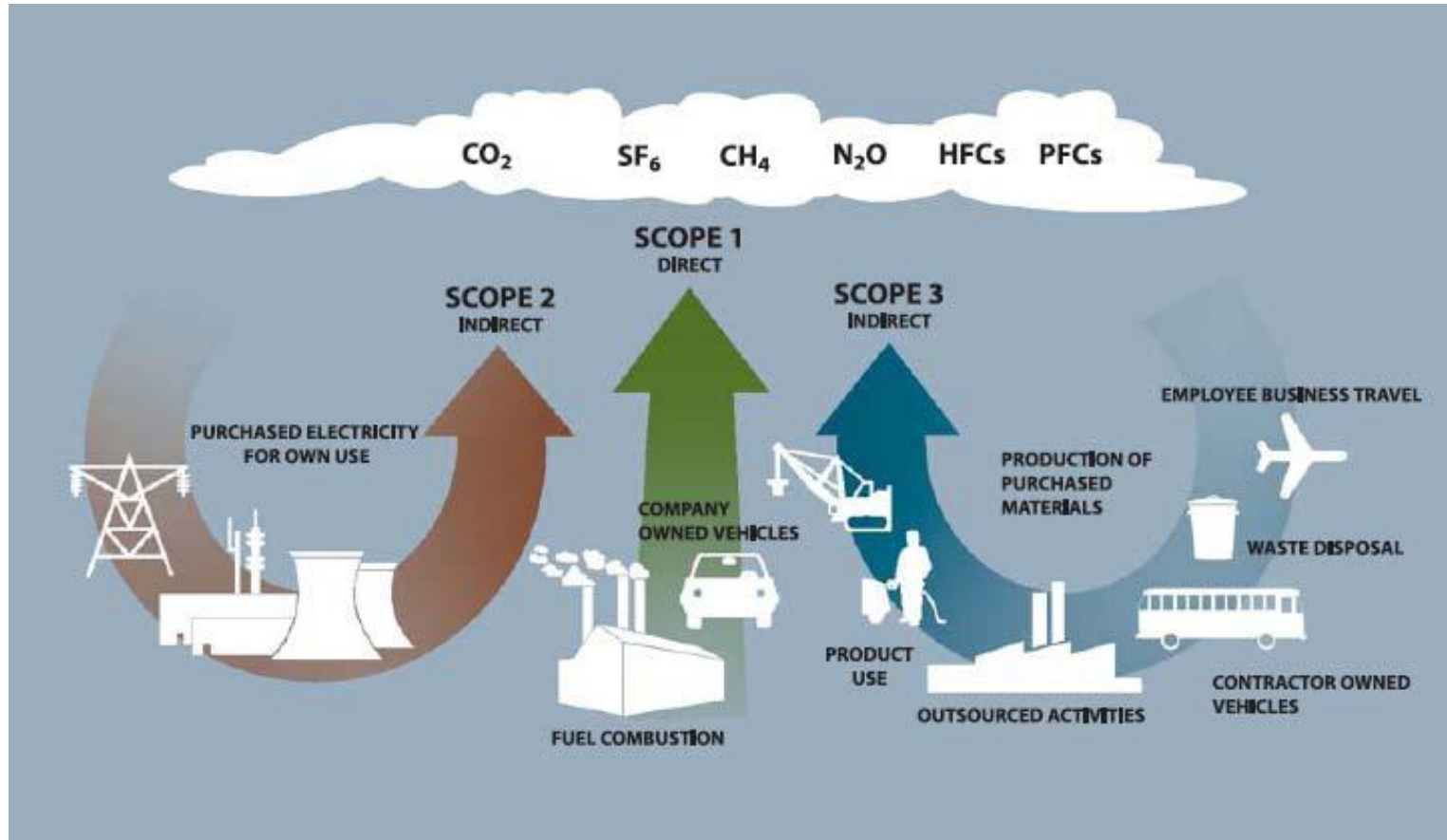
Base Assumptions

- Impacts are distinct from GHG measurement.
 - Defined in SEPA “*Impacts*” are the effects or consequences of actions. Environmental impacts are effects upon the elements of the environment.”
- GHG emissions can be quantified and verified in the SEPA checklist process.
- Evaluation of climate *impacts* (consequences of emissions) is limited due to cumulative nature and regional/global scale.

Base Assumptions (cont)

- “Vulnerabilities”, “combined impacts” or “adaptation” are postponed for later discussion.
- Discussion will focus on measuring a proposal’s “carbon footprint”
 - What portion of a proposal should be measured?
 - What types of proposals should be subject to measurement?

Overview of Scopes and Emission Sources



Source: WRI/WBCSD GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (Revised Edition)

Types of GHG Emissions

- **Scope 1** (all direct GHG Emissions)
 - Onsite fuel combustion from generators and fuel burning heaters
 - Onsite industrial process emissions
 - VMT emissions from company-owned or company-controlled vehicles
 - Direct onsite emissions from land clearing (soil carbon releases and vegetation burning)
- **Scope 2** (emissions associated with the consumption of purchased or acquired electricity, steam, heating, or cooling)
 - Off-site emissions from purchased electricity, heating or cooling
- **Scope 3** (all other indirect emissions not covered in Scope 2)
 - Employee commute
 - Employee business travel
 - Emissions from contracted services
 - Upstream production of materials and fuel
 - Upstream and Downstream transport of materials and fuel
 - Downstream waste handling

Other Impacts on Climate Change that could be measured

- Direct removal OR creation of GHG “sinks” (forest, wetland, aquatic habitat, etc.)
- Indirect alterations of sinks of GHG
 - how is a project's construction or lifetime operation likely to adversely or positively affect soil erosion, forest cover, crops or wetlands that may serve as carbon sinks for GHG emissions?
- Does evaluation need to go beyond probable increased emissions and decreased “sinks”?
- Consider other emissions associated with construction, operation, maintenance, and closure activities.

What types of proposals should be MEASURED for GHG emissions?

Some options:

1. All non-exempt projects and non-projects (King County, Seattle, California)
2. Identify categories or size of projects that can be excluded from climate change evaluation (not necessarily excluded from SEPA). (MA example)
3. All SEPA proposals plus some currently exempt (for example all projects that have any emissions - bucket #3)
4. Identify types of projects that get exempted from SEPA as incentive to mitigate (for bucket #3)

Typical Categories of Proposals

- Land Use Plan
- Transportation Plan
- All Buildings and Structures
- All Infrastructure (including power facilities)
- Processing of Fuels
- Renovation, rehabilitation or reuse
- Manufacturing
- Ports, Airports, Rail yards, Ferry Operations
- Waste Handling
- Agriculture, Silviculture, and Sequestration
- Mining Activities

Other Types of Proposals?

- Any types missing from SEPA review that need evaluation?
- Any that should be excluded? Non-project? Project?

Questions to Consider

- Are the base assumptions appropriate?
- What types of proposals will be measured?
- What elements or extents of a proposal will be measured?
- Would we measure GHG emissions only for “new projects”? What constitutes a “new” emission?
- Does every project contribute to a significant cumulative impact? Is this too “speculative”?
- What have we resolved? What still needs resolution?